attract industries. The allotment of growth centres to various States was made by the Planning Commission on the basis of a combined criteria of area, population in relation to industrial potential and employment and extent of industrial backwardness in the State. A list of these 71 growth centres and their status alongwith Central assistance released indicated against each of them is at Annexure. (*See* Appendix 186, Annexure No. 22)

Awareness about Patents and TRIPS

1294. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government feel the necessity of creating awareness in the people about Patents and TRIPS in view of their importance in coming years;

(b) if so, whether they have any proposal to do so;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (d) In order to create awareness about intellectual property rights, including patents and TRIPs, Government has been organising awareness programmes, seminars, etc. Further, in the project relating to modernisation of Patent Office, funds have been earmarked for taking up awareness activities in the coming years.

Operation of MNCs

1295. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are reviewing operations of direct marketing by multinational companies; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken to control their operations?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) Review of operations and policies is constantly under taken by Government as an input for further policy formulation.

Proposals cleared by FIPB

1296. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of proposals considered and cleared by Foreign Investment Promotion Board, so far, during the current year with estimated cost and industry with State-wise break up;

(b) how does it compare with that of the corresponding period during the last two years;

(c) the details of proposals pending/ under consideration; and

(d) what is the most favoured state and destination during recent year for foreign investment with number of proposals and quantum of investment proposed?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (d) Sir, 1349 foreign technical and financial proposals involving foreign direct investment (FDI) to the tune of Rs. 22625.90 crore have so far been cleared by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) from April, 98 to December, 98. Statement giving Industry-wise and State-wise details of foreign direct investment enclosed as Annexure (*See* Appendix 186, Annexure No.—23)

During the corresponding periods of 1996 and 1997, 1717 and 1720 foreign technical and financial proposals involving foreign direct investment (FDI) to the tune of Rs. 27721.03 crore and Rs. 34804.41 crore were approved respectively.

As on date, 59 proposals are pending/ under consideration.

Receipt of disposal of applications filed for consideration by FIPB/Government is